Claims 1, 4, 22, 23, 26, 33, 34, 37-39, 42, and 44-49 are pending.

Claims 2, 3, 5-21, 24, 25, 27-32, 35, 36, 40, 41, and 43 were previously canceled.

Claims 1, 22, 26, 33, 34, and 37 have been amended.

1.   (Currently Amended) An audio watermarking system comprising:

a pattern generator configured to generate both a strong watermark and a weak watermark; and

a watermark insertion unit configured to selectively insert the strong watermark into at least one segment of an audio signal and to selectively insert the weak watermark into at least one other segment of the audio signal, so that at least some resulting segments have either the strong or the weak watermark inserted therein, but not both~~,~~

~~wherein the segments are temporal segments or frequency segments~~.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Original) An operating system comprising an audio watermarking system as recited in claim 1.

5-21. (Canceled).

22.   (Currently Amended) An audio watermarking architecture, comprising:

a watermark encoding system configured to selectively insert a strong watermark into at least one segment of an audio signal and to selectively insert the weak watermark into at least one other segment of the audio signal, so that at least some resulting segments have either the strong or the weak watermark inserted therein, but not both; and

a watermark detecting system configured to detect a presence of a watermark in the segments of the audio signal and, if a watermark is present, further configured to determine whether the present watermark is either the strong watermark or the weak watermark,

~~wherein the segments are temporal segments or frequency segments.~~

23.   (Original) An audio watermarking architecture as recited in claim 22, wherein the watermark encoding system resides at a content producer to watermark original audio content and the watermark detecting system resides at one or more clients to detect the watermarks and play the original audio content.

24.   (Canceled).

25.   (Canceled).

26.   (Currently Amended) A method for watermarking an audio signal, comprising:

watermarking a first portion of the audio signal with a strong watermark; and

watermarking a second portion of the audio signal with a weak watermark,

wherein the first and second portions are separate~

~~wherein the portions are temporal portions or frequency portions.~~

27-32. (Canceled).

33.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

selectively encoding portions of an audio signal with a strong watermark and selectively

encoding other portions of the audio signal with a strong watermark, so that at least some

resulting portions have either the strong or the weak watermark encoded therein, but not both;

and

detecting a presence of a watermark in the portions of the audio signal;

if a watermark is present, determining whether the present watermark is either the strong

watermark or the weak watermark~

~~wherein the portions are temporal portions or frequency portions.~~

34.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable

instructions for:

watermarking a first portion of an audio signal with a strong watermark; and

watermarking a second portion of the audio signal with a weak watermark,

wherein the first and second portions are separate~

~~wherein the portions are temporal portions or frequency portions.~~

35.   (Canceled).

36.   (Canceled).

37.   (Currently Amended) An audio watermarking system comprising:

a pattern generator configured to generate both a strong watermark and a weak watermark; and

a watermark insertion unit configured to insert the strong watermark into a first segment of the audio signal and to insert the weak watermark into a second segment of the audio signal, wherein the first and second segments are separate,

~~wherein the segments are temporal segments or frequency segments.~~

38.   (Original) An audio watermarking system as recited in claim 37, wherein the watermark insertion unit selectively chooses segments for insertion of the watermarks according to an audible measure of the segments.

39.   (Original) An audio watermarking system as recited in claim 37, wherein the watermark insertion unit selectively chooses segments for insertion of the strong watermark according to an audible measure of the segments.

40.   (Canceled).

41.   (Canceled).

42.   (Original) An operating system comprising an audio watermarking system as recited in claim 37.

43.   (Canceled).

44.   (Previously Presented) An audio watermarking system as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more resulting segments having the strong watermark inserted therein are distinct in the frequency domain from the one or more resulting segments having the weak watermark inserted therein.

45.   (Previously Presented) An audio watermarking architecture as recited in claim 22, wherein the one or more resulting segments having the strong watermark inserted therein are distinct in the frequency domain from the one or more resulting segments having the weak watermark inserted therein.

46.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the first and second portions are separate in the frequency domain.

47.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the one or more resulting portions having the strong watermark inserted therein are distinct in the frequency domain from the one or more resulting portions having the weak watermark inserted therein.

48.   (Previously Presented) A medium as recited in claim 34, wherein the first and second portions are separate in the frequency domain.

49.   (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 37, wherein the first and second

segments are separate in the frequency domain.